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AIR POUCH

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Chief of Western Hemisphere Division

1 June 1954

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KUGOWN Operations

Report on El Primer Congreso Contra la Intervencion Sovietica  
en America Latina -- Part I

1. This is Part I of this [ ] report on the subject Congress. Due to limitations of time and staff, it is impossible to include in this first report all of the relevant information concerning the Congress. The purpose of this dispatch is to forward the basic data on the Congress and press clippings from Mexico City newspapers; Part II will contain a more detailed description of events, our evaluation of the effectiveness of the operation, and pertinent attachments.

2. The Congress, called by Jorge PRIETO Laurens of the Frente Popular Anti-Comunista de Mexico, held its opening session on 27 May and its final session on 30 May. During the four days of the meeting, held in a small legitimate theater (the "Cervantes") in Mexico City, the subject of Soviet intervention in the hemisphere was discussed by delegates from many Latin American countries, prominent among whom were:

Argentina	Andres de CICCIO, ex-Argentine ambassador to Russia
Bolivia	Lic. Eduardo LUAZO Cuenca
Brasil	Almirante Carlos PENNA Botto, Cruzada Brasileira Anti-Comunista Waldo RAMOS Viana, of the Frente de Juventud Democratica Antonio PORTO Sobrinho, journalist
Colombia	Dr. Alfonso URIBE Misas, Rector of the University of Antioquia, Medellin. Rafael M. VELASQUEZ
Costa Rica	Mariano QUIROZ Gonzalez, of the Juventud Anti-Comunista de Costa Rica Fernando VARGAS Fernandez and Lic. Marco Tulio ZELEDON Matamoros, of the Union Costarricense Anti-Comunista Raul CAMBRONERA and Capitan Oscar ARANA Porras, of the Liga Anti-Comunista de Costa Rica
Ecuador	Jose A. BAQUERO de la Calle, President of the Camara de Diputados de Ecuador Galo CANAZ Rodrigo MARTINEZ

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Paraguay	Isabel ARRUA Vallejo, of the Asociacion Pro-Derechos de la Mujer
Nicaragua	Carlos Adan ESPINOSA, Julio SERPAS and Francisco PEREA Estrana, of the Confederacion Nacionalista de Trabajadores Democraticos de Nicaragua
Peru	ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ Garcia, of the Union Nacional de Estudiantes Nestor GAMBETA, Senator Dr. Lincoln PINZAS Gallardo, Vice President of the Camara de Diputados
Panama	Dr. BARBARON, of the Centro Cultural Americanista Luis Carlos NORIEGA and Arturo HASSAN Antamez, of the Organizacion de la Juventud Democratica
Uruguay	Omar IBARGOYEN, of the Movimiento Anti-Totalitario de Uruguay
El Salvador	Eduardo Alfonso FIGEAC, of the PRUD
Guatemala	A numerous delegation, lead by Jose Luis ARENAS, Carlos SALAZAR and Jose CALDERON Salazar, and including residents of Guatemala as well as exiles.
Mexico	Many organizations represented, especially of right-wing, Catholic leanings.

No delegates arrived from Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Chile, Honduras or Venezuela, although invitations were issued to individuals (who could not attend for one reason or another) in all these countries. (Due to conflicting press reports and the confusion of the last few days, it may be that the names of some delegates are omitted or given incorrectly -- inaccuracies will be corrected in Part II.)

3. The substance of discussion at the Congress was to have been, of course, Soviet intervention in the affairs of Latin American countries. Although emphasis was placed by each delegate on Communist influence in his own country, and all deplored the extent to which Communism had gained control over the government of Guatemala, the anti-Soviet theme became an anti-Communist theme thereby losing some of its incisiveness. The issue which was most effectively presented and documented was that of the Communist danger in Guatemala; a resolution was unanimously passed condemning the ARBENZ government and a cable was sent by the Congress to the Organization of American States requesting that it judge the case of Guatemala.

4. The Congress also established a permanent executive committee to which were appointed the following:

Almirante Carlos PENNA Botto, president, Brasil  
Jorge PRIETO Laurens, secretary general, Mexico  
Dr. Rafael M. VELAZQUEZ, Colombia  
Mariano QUIROZ Gonzalez, Costa Rica  
Federico NEILSEN Reyes, Bolivia  
Eduardo Alfonso FIGEAC, El Salvador  
Dr. Jose A. BAQUERO de la Calle, Ecuador  
Jose CALDERON Salazar, Guatemala

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Aurelio LOPEZ, <sup>P</sup>anama  
Hector GAMBETTA (Senator and Colonel), Peru  
Carlos Adan ESPINOSA, Nicaragua  
Isabel ARRUA Callejo, Paraguay  
Omar IBARGOYEN, Uruguay  
Luis Felipe BELLERIA, Venezuela

It will be a further task of these individuals to establish committees in their respective countries to serve as operating units of the executive committee. The extent to which such operations will be supported by KUGOWN and the sources of direction and funding (if any) will be determined by Headquarters upon completion of an evaluation of the Congress.

5. Jorge PRIETO Laurens went to such oratorical lengths to prove that the Mexican government was riddled with Communists that he incurred the disgust of some of the delegates present (at one time the Ecuador and Costa Rica delegations left the hall in protest) and the ridicule of the local press. Because of PRIETO's unfortunate obsession, and the natural inclination of the Mexican press to emphasize that part of the discussion which pertained to Mexico, the over-all press coverage, while extensive, does not lend itself to hemisphere replay. Herewith attached are those press clippings which, in our opinion, merit re-publication by the various Stations. It is hoped that the publication of these clippings, together with wire service reports and interviews of returning delegates, will provide at least a minimum of publicity for the Congress in each country.

BOYD I. ROLENDER

31 May 1954

Encls: 19 envelopes of press clippings [ ]

Distribution:

3 - Wash/w encls	1 - [ ]	1 - [ ] w encls	1 - [ ]	1 - [ ] w encls
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